

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB-6019

6 October 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THRU: Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--September 1986

I. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. The major story of the month was an unsuccessful coup in Togo on the night of 23 September. The bureau first became aware of the situation when AFP broke the story at 0700 gmt on the 24th. We were able to immediately file a report from the original source, Lome Domestic Service, which stated that an armed terrorist group had infiltrated Lome from Ghana. Togo subsequently blamed Ghana and Burkina Faso for allowing the coup plotters to operate in their territory and and both France and Zaire sent troops to Togo in a show of support. Many leaders, including President Reagan, sent missions or messages of support for Togo.
- 2. Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi incurred the wrath of Ivory Coast, Cameroon and Zaire by accusing these countries, during the Nonaligned Summit meeting, of being "traitors" for restoring ties with Israel. The three countries issued a joint communique condemning Al-Qadhdhafi for his "malicious, discourteous, and indecent remarks." This was followed on 6 September by an Ivorian Foreign Ministry "rejoinder" to Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi. The Ivorian Foreign Ministry also expressed keen interest in the Karachi airplane hijacking as did the U.S. Embassy Charge. The bureau kept both well informed via the phone and special deliveries of related items.
- 3. Coup rumors in Liberia while President Doe was out of the country at the Nonaligned Summit proved false, but dissident activity and economic problems are forcing the bureau to closely watch the Liberian situation. After a prolonged period in which we could not hear Monrovia Domestic, the bureau has now been able to return the Monrovia 2100GMT cast to coverage and cruising efforts are promising for adding other casts.

	4.	Junio	or monitor	,			has inst	ituted a	tra	ınsla-
ion	guidance	and	feedback	program	for	the	monitors	designed	to	im-

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prove translation quality control by offering suggestions for translating various French expressions into idiomatic American English.

efforts, motivated by her strong French language ability and interest, supplement the efforts of the chief monitor.

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B. Communications

Frequent and prolonged outages were common again this month as TCU continued trouble shooting efforts on the Skymux equipment. The bureau chief, deputy chief, and engineer met with a visiting regional engineer from Nairobi who had just been made aware of the seriousness of the problem and gave assurances that technical help will be brought in to resolve it. Commo has been good for the last week after extensive trouble shooting but it is still unclear whether this represents a permanent solution.

C. Lateral Services

At the request of DCM Vincent Farley, the bureau began to supply tapes recorded from radios in our coverage area which Farley will forward to FSI to be used for language training purposes. Farley has requested "a couple of tapes every few months."

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Interviewing and testing has been completed for a fulltime monitor position, a part-time monitor/translator position, and a teletypist position. Three candidates with excellent qualifications have been selected, two of whom are awaiting provisional security and medical clearances. The third, the full-time monitor applicant, is schedule to EOD on 12 October. He will fill STAT the vacancy which will be created with STAT retirement in December. STAT returned to duty 29 September Monitor from the Foreign National Orientation Program in Headquarters followed by annual leave. STAT submitted her resignation Teletypist effective 8 September.

B. Buildings and Grounds

1. A window has been installed in the wall between the

editorial desk and the teletype section to facilitate the handling of copy and improve overall efficiency. Copy can now be passed between the two sections where previously the editor and teletypist had to handcarry the copy back and forth. The bureau engineer has also installed a bell at the editorial desk to alert the Commo Unit to the presence of high precedence copy.

Painting of the bureau exterior and fence was completed during the month. The bureau's distinctive blue gate is now green.

III. VISITS

- 1. New U.S. Ambassador Dennis Kux visited the bureau on 1 October following his arrival in Abidjan on 27 September.
- 2. Chief/Ops visited the bureau 1-4 October on a management inspection tour.

3. The 12-member FBO chancery site selection team visited the bureau on 22 September. The team inspected five sites around the city. An area near the Hotel Ivoire in the Cocody Section of Abidjan remains the primary site. The team leaders very tentatively offered 1992 as the completion date for the new chancery. Members of the team are scheduled to return in about 6 months for the next phase of the process.

IV. POST ACTIVITIES

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

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Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau Deputy Chief, London Bureau

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